

STATINTL

Capital VIPs Quietly Divide Over Social Club Race Bar

WASHINGTON — McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's top advisor on national security affairs, has joined Washington's exclusive Metropolitan Club, center of a political storm over its refusal to admit Negroes.

It was understood that several high-ranking members of the administration are also members of the club, including at least one cabinet member, Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon.

On Sept. 19, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, the President's brother, resigned from the club calling its color bar "inconceivable."

Bundy, former dean of Harvard, said:

"This is a problem of personal judgment. In my judgment it implies no disagreement with the attorney general for whom I have the greatest personal and professional respect."

Other members of the club in the Kennedy Administration, according to a roster obtained informally and dated January 1961, include former Secretary of State Dean Acheson, an ad-



McGEORGE BUNDY
Joined Anyhow

ministration adviser; Theodore Achilles, director of the State Department's crisis center; David K. E. Bruce, ambassador to the Court of St. James's; Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Henry R. Labouisse, former foreign aid director; Livingston T. Merchant, assistant secretary of state; and Paul H. Nitze, assistant secretary of defense.

Also listed in the roster were Hugh D. Auchincloss, stepfather of the President's wife, Jacqueline, and Charles L. Bartlett, Washington correspondent of the Chattanooga Times, and a close friend of the President.

The controversy over the Metropolitan Club, one of Washington's most select social organizations, was touched off within the club last April when Angier Biddle Duke, State Department chief of protocol, quit the club in protest against its ban of African diplomats. Duke's resignation did not become known publicly until early in August.

Meantime, in July, George Lodge took his successor as assistant secretary of labor, George L. P. Weaver, to lunch at the club. Weaver is a Negro. Lodge, reportedly reprimanded for his action, resigned from the club Sept. 18.

The next day Robert Kennedy quit, along with Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall, chief of the Justice Department's civil rights division.

All of this has posed an embarrassing problem for Bundy and other top administration officials who belong to the fashionable club. Some members are understood to be opposed to the club's unwritten color bar, but they appear to be a minority on the powerful board of directors.